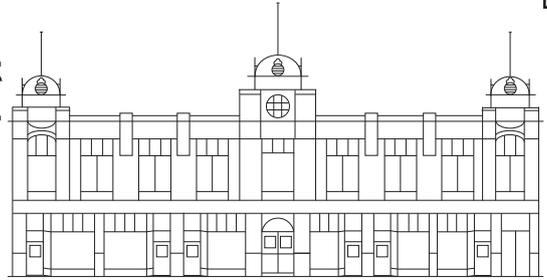


PRAHNAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 83 - AUGUST 2014



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About the PMI:

140 High Street, Prahran
(PO Box 1080
Windsor VIC 3181)
Ph/Fax (03) 9510 3393
library@pmi.net.au
www.pmi.net.au

Open:

M-F 9.30am-4.30pm
Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

Membership:

\$15 individual (1 yr)
\$50 individual (5 yrs)
\$100 life (over 60s)
\$30 institutional

Feedback/suggestions
for this newsletter
may be directed to
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Grant Success for PMI

We're pleased to report that the PMI has had some great fortune this year in the form of grant assistance for various things.

The City of Stonnington has always been supportive of the PMI through the Community Grants Program, and this round has been no exception. Through this program the council continues to support production and distribution of the newsletter, and volunteer incentives (such as our volunteer week gifts and annual International Volunteer Day function). \$2000 has also been allocated this year toward the implementation of our new catalogue.



— City of —
STONNINGTON

According to the council's website, 'An estimate of 200 community organisations have received grants under the program this year, and Council has helped by either providing direct funding or in-kind support for the use of Council venues or buses.' We're very grateful for this continued support, along with so many other community and charitable organisations in the Stonnington area.

Additionally, the City of Stonnington has committed to provide \$40,000 per year over

the next 3 years toward the many expenses associated with setting up the new library (further details can be found in 'Committee News', p.3). This is very good news for us and demonstrates the council's appreciation of how big a job this relocation will be for us, and how much improved our services and facilities will be at the new building.

We were also very surprised to receive another grant from the Sir Wilfred Brookes Charitable Foundation. You might recall a previous grant from this organisation was received at the same time last year which was a contribution to building expenses for the new library. This time \$5,000 has been contributed and it comes at a time when the committee are making decisions about fixtures, fittings, furnishings and equipment, so this donation is very welcome indeed.

The foundation was established in 2007 by philanthropist Roger Brookes, who is a great-grandson of Alfred Deakin, and is administered through Perpetual Mutual. Charitable giving is a part of his Brookes' family heritage and he named the foundation after his father.

Perpetual

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... and you'll be an early bird
for the Recent Additions and
Books for Sale lists!

MEMBERS NEWS

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Apr-Aug:

Financial Donors

Thank you to the following people who made financial donations to the library Apr-Aug:

*Rae Anthony
Clive Brookes
Richard Broome
Gabriel German
Michael Golder
Wallace Kirsop
Alf Lazer
Roderick Macleod*

*Joan Nelson
Margaret Oulton
Geoffrey Paterson
Don Raisbeck
Isabel Simpson
Bruce Stubbs
Peter Wolfenden*

Book Donors

Thank you to the following people and groups who donated books to the library Apr-Aug:

*Air Power Development
Centre
Lorraine Bates
Jeff Atkinson
Australian Railway
Historical Society (Vic.)
Barbara Brown
The Christian Israelite
Church Australia
Ian Clarke
Susan Colten Carter
Nancy Curnow
Margaret Dunne
Echuca Historical Society
Jennifer Elder
Jim Ellwood
Graeme Fischer
Beatrice Garner
Ian Harris
Peter Isaacson
Leonard Janiszewski
Lend Lease
Charles Lewis
Neil MacLean*

*Mills Oakley Lawyers
Marilyn Moore
Our Lady of the Way
Parish Kingsbury
Meg Paul
Rye Historical Society
Susan Samuel
Isabel Simpson
Stuart Smith
St Andrew's Parish,
Brighton
St Margaret's Church
Eltham
Steve Stefanopoulos
Peter Stone
Ivan L. Streader
Ann Synan
Warrandyte Historical
Society
Xavier College
Yarra Plenty Regional
Library Service*

GENERAL NEWS

New PMI Catalogue

Work and testing continues on our new catalogue. The job requires merging patron records and loan histories from our existing library system with patron records from our Outlook member database. By combining the two patron databases on to the new system we should be able to avoid a great deal of duplication of administration work.

Another fiddly aspect of the project concerns the retro fitting of the catalogue search screen with our new website (which will be launched with the opening of the new building).

Correct uploading of the records and ensuring that full catalogue records and results lists appear the way we need them to on the screen is also part of the whole range of things we need to look at while testing. We should be able to give a time frame for completion of the catalogue in the next newsletter.

Short History Prize

Thank you to all those who entered the PMI Short History Prize this year.

As usual, a panel of historians will soon be reading and judging the entries and the recipient of the prize will be announced on our website on Monday 20 October.

Staff

Ursula Zamecnik is on leave for six weeks having a well earned holiday. Until her return on 23 September, volunteer Susanne Jones is working Fridays. Susanne is studying the Masters of Information Management and has been volunteering with us since January.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Work on our new facilities in St Edmonds Road continues to progress. As members know, the building we purchased was, of recent years, converted to a number of offices. Major internal alterations were necessary to accommodate our library, offices, lift and the multipurpose room which we anticipate will be used for larger meetings lectures and exhibitions.

With such a conversion project, many unforeseens are likely to surface as work progresses. Your Committee and its Building Sub-Committee, together with the staff have held many meetings in an attempt to streamline our relocation and to take advice from various experts. This, together with input from our architect and builder, is producing a result which hopefully all members and visitors will be proud of. As one of the longer serving committee members, I cannot recall a busier or more taxing time for committee - or staff for that matter.

Needless to say, some costs have escalated due

AROUND THE LIBRARY

to unforeseens. This is common with any rebuilding project – just ask anyone who has installed a new kitchen! And then there are the unforeseen unforeseens, always lurking to be discovered in an older building project! Again, these are only revealed once the work is well underway. However overall, I think it is fair to report that committee is reasonably happy with our current progress and situation. We should be able to meet our end of year deadline!

On the subject of money, the committee is very pleased to report that a major financial donation of \$120,000 has been made by the City of Stonnington. \$40,000 per year will be provided over the next three years which will come in handy to add some of the finishing touches to the new facilities. Some months ago, committee decided to approach the council seeking some funding and our Stonnington Representative, Cr Claude Ullin, made the representation. Treasurer Ben Quin also approached the Mayor, Cr Adrian Stubbs, and Vice President Chris Michalopoulos met with Cr Sam Hibbins, including a tour of the existing library and the new building.

We are absolutely delighted with the council's generous donation – perhaps an indication of how council perceives the value of the PMI, our important Victorian History Library and its value to the community generally.

Peter Wolfenden

VOLUNTEERS NEWS

So far this year, 18 volunteers have contributed 682 hours work in the library, and three book indexes, with 5 further books currently being indexed.

Major tasks being undertaken by volunteers at present are as follows:

- Libraries Australia - Checking back through our old accession register books (register of items acquired by the library) continues to make sure the PMI is showing as holding the items on Libraries Australia (Trove) database. We are finding that our holdings for some of these books acquired early on are not recorded on Trove so it's great that this can be rectified.
- Archives - paper archives: much archive material continues to be gathered, filed, described and indexed.
- Digital archives - many digital images have been gathered and filed and are now undergoing renaming and indexing. This is a big but very worthwhile task.
- Collection - rare books: one volunteer is checking items in our rare book cabinet to the catalogue and to an online resources to establish their potential value and how easily they could be replaced. This information determines whether an item should

remain under lock and key, and whether a book should be available for loan or reference. This task is now nearing completion.

- Indexing - we now have 66 book indexes completed by PMI volunteers.
- Book care - as usual, our volunteer book care team continues to work hard preparing newly acquired materials for the library shelves. We have about six boxes remaining of the large Heritage Victoria donation to add, and these volunteers have been very efficient in their processing of these materials.

COLLECTION NEWS

Now that the general collection has been removed, we have been able to move some books around on the shelves and make good use of the extra space.

Our Australian literature collection is undergoing some checking at the moment to ensure that it remains relevant to our readers. Finding items in the Australian literature section is easy:

All Australian literature items are at 820, followed by the first three letters of the author's surname, the author's first name initial and the first three letters of the book's title:

**820
ELL.
S
ABO**

About Tilly Beamis by
Sumner Locke Elliott

**820
NUN.
J
ELL**

Elianne by Judy Nunn

We have lovers of mystery fiction amongst our members, so we are in the process of extracting Australian mystery fiction from the 820 number and these will be found at 828:

**828
GRE.
K
BLO**

Blood and circuses by
Kerry Greenwood

**828
TEM.
P
BRO**

The broken shore by
Peter Temple

SOME ANNIVERSARIES OF THE PAST

In this 160th anniversary year of the PMI, it's a good time to reflect on the way in which the PMI celebrated past anniversaries.

In the previous issue of this newsletter we saw how the *Prahran Telegraph* (9/7/1904) recorded the 50th anniversary of the PMI. In this issue we'll look at some subsequent anniversaries.

□

Here's how the *Argus* (2/5/1924) recorded the 70th anniversary of the PMI in 1924 ...

70th ANNIVERSARY

The Prahran Mechanics' Institute celebrated its 70th Anniversary last evening, when the mayor (Councillor W.B. Lumley) presided. Addresses were delivered by the chairman, Mr. Maxwell, MHR, and Dr Featherston, MLA.

Mr Maxwell spoke on technical education. Councillors A.H. Woodfull and J.J.W. Flintoft also spoke. During the evening the secretary read a report on the institute and its activities since its inception. The musical programme was supplied by Miss Dorothy Humphries, Miss Lena Madson, and Messrs. P. Blundell and J. Foster.

□

Ten years later, in what was the 80th anniversary, the PMI was in a downturn, partly due to the Rent Reduction Act, which substantially decreased revenue. There appears to have been no great anniversary celebration, but mention was made in the annual report:

This year we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of the Institute, during this lengthy period it has seen many changes, and its history has not always been one of continued prosperity. Since the year 1900, when a system of reconstruction was instituted, we may claim a period of progress. The past year (although showing a considerable shrinkage in rent receipts) we have been able to carry on most of our progressive functions. The Library

membership and output compares favourably with previous years, and the Technical School accommodation is overtaxed.

□

In his book *Pioneer and Hardy Survivor*, Laurie McCalman noted that:

In 1954 the Prahran Mechanics' Institute was 100 years old but the centenary passed almost unnoticed. This is hardly suprising, because by that time the Institute had entered another period of decline.

Again, there was mere acknowledgement in the annual report:

We feel our report this year should have a special significance for our subscribers, as 1954 is our Centenary year.

The original Mechanics' Institute was established in Chapel Street, Prahran, in 1854, and was actually the nucleus of the present Town Hall Library, and was also the meeting place of the first Council of Prahran.

... I know all our subscribers will wish the Mechanics' Institute good luck for its next 100 years; it has served Prahran well, and will continue to do so.

□

Subsequent anniversaries received even less attention until the 150th in 2004. From the PMI newsletter (6/2004):

150 years of history was celebrated at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute on 1 May. The day's activities began with Secretary Librarian Catherine Milward-Bason's reflections on the role of the Institute in the modern era, especially compared with the aims and intentions of the first committee.

Former Secretary Librarian, Bruce Turner, then took us through some of the highlights and lowlights of the Institute's history.

At the conclusion of Bruce's lecture, he was presented, much to his surprise, with a Life Membership of the Institute. Bruce served as the Institute's first full-time Secretary Librarian from 1984-1996. He and his colleagues were charged with implementing the then new collection development policy which would see the Victorian and local history collection take shape, and with supervising the automation of the library catalogue with the help of Stonnington Library and Information Service.

Members and visitors then gathered at the

library for refreshments.

At 3pm Mr Tony Lupton, the Member for Prahran, officially opened the 150th Anniversary Gallery, a permanent installation in the library. Mr Lupton also announced a \$10,000 Community Partnerships Grant from the Minister for Local Government and Department for Victorian Communities.

The Community Partnerships Grant will be used to establish the Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press - a facility to enable small scale publishing for individual authors and historical societies who would otherwise find it difficult to have their histories published. ...

We were very pleased with the number of members and visitors who attended our Anniversary day. The committee would like to thank you for showing your support.

The speeches given by Cathy Milward-Bason and Bruce Turner were also reproduced in the newsletter. Additional articles about the 150th Anniversary of the PMI were published in *Margin* magazine and the GSV's *Ancestor* journal.



We intend to officially celebrate the 160th anniversary of the PMI in conjunction with the launch of the new library - so stay tuned for further information.

WEST MELBOURNE LITERARY INSTITUTE: A HISTORY

Ken James

This book examines the history of the second mechanics' institute to have existed in the City of Melbourne, the other being the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute established in 1839, later renamed The Melbourne Athenaeum in 1872.

The West Melbourne Literary Institute was established at a public meeting in 1864. A building was erected at 266 William Street on the south east corner of Little Lonsdale and William Streets then later expanded to include a Hall. Its entry in the Sands and McDougall

Melbourne directory for many years was 'West Melbourne Literary Institute, Circulating Library and Reading Rooms'. Among its uses the building hosted public, company meetings, and union meetings, City of Melbourne electoral campaigns, the Swedish Church, and a Temperance Lodge. The membership had connections with the West Melbourne Bowls Club. Its founders, supporters, committee members and trustees included State and City of Melbourne politicians including seven lord mayors as well as prominent businessmen. It operated up to the 1890s then in 1900 part of its land was given to the Queen Victoria Hospital who established a pharmacy and outpatients section. In 1909 the Government gave the site to the hospital who turned the building into nurses' quarters and gave the Trustees a new site on the corner of William and Rosslyn Streets, West Melbourne. The original building was replaced in 1934 by a new Queen Victoria Hospital building. The Trustees were unable over time to raise the money to erect a new building and the Institute was wound up in the same year, its monies being distributed among various charities. Today the site is part of the County Court of Victoria complex at 250 William Street.

The book will be available after the 1 September launch date. For information on how to purchase a copy contact the author knjames47@gmail.com

Ken James is a historian and author of more than 25 publications, including the first regional study of mechanics' institutes in Victoria *A history of eight central Victorian mechanics' institutes : Barfold, Chewton, Elphinstone, Lyal, Mia Mia, Redesdale, Sutton Grange and Taradale.*



West Melbourne Literary Institute : today the site forms part of the County Court of Victoria complex of judicial buildings

ancestry library edition

Recently Added & Updated Australian Databases

New South Wales, Australia, Hospital & Asylum Records, 1840-1913

In 1821, the Benevolent Society, Australia's first charity, opened the first asylum for the poor, blind, aged, and infirm. In 1825 the Liverpool Lunatic Asylum was established. This facility cared for the colony's mentally ill until the asylum at Tarban Creek opened in 1838. In 1848 the old female factory at Parramatta became the "Convict, Lunatic and Invalid Establishment," and by 1849 it was a public asylum for the reception and custody of the mentally ill.

This collection includes registers of inmates, records of admission and discharge, and returns and reports from Liverpool, Tarban Creek, and Parramatta for various years. The content of the records varies depending on the record type. Some are just lists of patients, while others are more robust. Information can include the following: name - age - ship - whether free of bonded - dates of admission and discharge - reasons and/or nature of admission and discharge - religion - by whom admitted - history - names and addresses of relatives - occupation - remarks

New South Wales, Australia, Medical Registers, 1925-1954

If your ancestor was a nurse in New South Wales in the early 20th century, you'll want to take a look at this database. It contains registrations for nurses in New South Wales for the years 1925–ca. 1954. You'll find details such as name, hospital trained at, date of registration, and remarks.

Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839–1923

(This collection has been recently updated.)

This data collection contains unassisted and assisted immigrant passenger lists to Victoria, Australia for various years between 1852 and 1923. "Unassisted immigrants" are individuals whose passages were not subsidized or paid for by another person or through another agency.

This collection is comprised of four different records series from the Public Record Office of Victoria. They are:

- Inwards overseas passenger lists from UK ports to Victoria, 1852-1889, 1900-1923
- Inwards overseas passenger lists from foreign ports to Victoria, 1852-1879, 1900-1923
- Inwards overseas passenger lists from New Zealand to Victoria, 1852-1923

- Index to Assisted British Immigration, 1839-1871

In 1852 the "Act to Regulate the Conveyance of Passengers to the Colony of Victoria" was passed. This law required that ships arriving from foreign and inter-colonial ports provide details on the passengers aboard as well as other particulars of the ship. The forms used and the information recorded varied over time. In 1923 immigration became the responsibility of the Commonwealth instead of the State. These dates explain the coverage in the records presented here. Post-1923 passenger list records can be found at the National Archives of Australia.

Information recorded on the passenger lists generally includes: Name of passenger ; Age ; Gender ; Profession or occupation ; Nationality ; Port of embarkation ; Port of destination ; Arrival date. In some lists you may also find religious denomination, bounty per head, and, if the traveller was sponsored, the name and place of the employer and wage.

Some other immigration records on Ancestry Library Edition that may be useful include:

- New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896

This database contains a collection of assisted immigrant passenger lists to New South Wales, Australia for various years between 1828 and 1896. "Assisted immigrants" are individuals whose passages were either subsidized or paid for by another person or through another agency. This collection is comprised of four different series of records. Information listed on these records may include: name of immigrant, age, marital status, gender, and native place.

- New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922

This database contains a collection of unassisted immigrant passenger lists to New South Wales, Australia for various years between 1826 and 1922. Information contained in the records may include information about the ship and names of passengers.

- Queensland, Australia, Passenger Lists, 1848-1912

This database contains a collection of unassisted immigrant passenger lists to New South Wales, Australia for various years between 1826 and 1922. Information contained in the records may include information about the ship and names of passengers.

FICTION-FICTION

The Gillard governments : Australian Commonwealth administration 2010-2013 / edited by Chris Aulich

The years 2010 to 2013 saw a remarkable period in Australian political history: Julia Gillard became Australia's first female prime minister after she successfully staged a leadership challenge to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. A few months later she led her party to the 2010 federal election, and subsequently steered through seventeen days of negotiation with three independent members to successfully form her second, but minority, government. Yet, three years and three days later, she was overthrown by the very man she had originally dethroned. In this book, expert contributors consider the turbulence of that period and reflect on the Gillard governments' policy-setting, institutional and political legacies. In particular, they consider the issue of Gillard's leadership of a minority government and the arrangements needed to work with the Greens and independents to achieve Labor policies in the parliament. A recurring theme raised by many of the authors relates to the many distractions that prevented Gillard and Labor from gaining popular traction during the period. The book gives particular attention to Gillard as a female leader and the relentless campaign of denigration that pursued her, drawing conclusions about the fate of many women who assume positions of significant power in the Australian community. The Gillard Governments has been produced by the ANZSOG Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra. It is the eleventh in a series of books on successive Commonwealth administrations. Each volume has provided a chronicle and commentary of major events, policies and issues that have dominated successive administrations since 1983.

Gravity : inside the PM's office during her last year and final days / Mary Delahunty

Our first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard came to power suddenly in a coup that perplexed the nation. She hurried to an election and was chained to a hung parliament. She out-negotiated Tony Abbott and formed a minority government, but the deepest threat was from within: the man she beat for the top job would relentlessly undermine her for three torturous years. In this exclusive insider account, award-winning journalist Mary Delahunty teases out the personal from the political as she asks why we never got to know this Prime Minister. She reveals for the first time Gillard's reflections on why she struggled at the top, as well as the thoughts of other key players in this brutal saga. Delahunty had unparalleled access to the PM throughout her final year, and was the only journalist to speak to Gillard on that fatal June day. Gravity takes readers inside Gillard's private office to detail the drama - exposing the cost of defeat, and capturing just how fast power drains away.

The Rudd rebellion : the campaign to save Labor / Bruce Hawker

The campaign trail is long and tough, where reputations and governments can be made, and broken, in a day. A political campaign is not conducted merely in the few weeks before Election Day. Good leaders understand that campaigning never truly ceases. The Campaigners is a fascinating look what happens behind the scenes in the drama of a political campaign. Strategist Bruce Hawker unlocks the keys to good campaigning through this 'fly on the wall' account of his work in recent years from his involvement in the remarkable 1998 Queensland election, through to his seminal 'Kevin 07' campaign that led to the ALP's remarkable victory and to his personal efforts in the 2011 negotiations with the Independents to give Labor government. Hawker was there during the overthrow of the Rudd government and was involved in the plotting of Rudd's 2012 leadership challenge. Through his first-hand account of these events, he ultimately reflects on what a campaigner needs to do when their team loses. From putting together a campaign team to conducting forensic research to expose the opposition's shortcomings; from the detailed war-gaming of potential political outcomes to carefully controlling the timing of policy releases; and ultimately to the nail-biting lead-up to the polls, The Campaigners puts together a primer for the wannabe strategist and paints a fascinating 'back room' picture for the political junkie. The book will be published a month after the 2013 campaign and will a savvy rendition of how to win elections (or not as the case may be).

Dangerous allies / Malcolm Fraser with Cain Roberts

Australia has always been reliant on .."great and powerful friends" for its sense of national security and for direction on its foreign policy... first on the British Empire and now on the United

States. Australia has actively pursued a policy of strategic dependence, believing that making a grand bargain with a powerful ally was the best policy to ensure its security and prosperity. This book examines Australia's history of strategic dependence and questions the continuation of this position. It argues that international circumstances, in the world and in the Western Pacific especially, now make such a policy highly questionable. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States has also changed dramatically, making it less relevant to Australia and a less appropriate ally on which Australia should rely. Malcolm Fraser argues that Australia should adopt a much greater degree of independence in foreign policy, and that we should no longer merely follow a "great and powerful friend" into wars of no direct interest to Australia or Australia's security.

Menzies at war / Anne Henderson

In the months following his resignation as PM in late August 1941, Menzies swayed between relief at his release from the burdens of office as PM and despair that his life at the top had come to so little. Many followers of Australian political history, including Liberal party supporters, forget that Robert Menzies had many years in the political wilderness not knowing he would end up being Australia's longest-serving prime minister. This book focuses on the period between 1941, when Menzies lost the prime-ministership, to 1949, when he regained it. In the interim he travelled around the world, spending an extended time in Britain during World War II, set up the Liberal Party and, the author argues, developed the leadership qualities that made him so successful. Anne Henderson refers to this time as his real political bleeding.

A history of Canberra / Nicholas Brown

Designed as an 'ideal city' and emblem of the nation, Canberra has long been a source of ambivalence for many Australians. In this charming and concise book, Nicholas Brown challenges these ideas and looks beyond the clichés to illuminate the unique, layered and often colourful history of Australia's capital. Brown covers Canberra's selection as the site of the national capital, the turbulent path of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for the city and the many phases of its construction. He surveys citizens' diverse experiences of the city, the impact of the Second World War on Canberra's growth and explores the city's political history with insight and wit. A History of Canberra is informed by the interplay of three themes central to Canberra's identity: government, community and environment. Canberra's distinctive social and cultural history as a centre for the public service and national institutions is vividly rendered.

The fights of my life / Greg Combet with Mark Davis

From his childhood in Rooty Hill in the western suburbs of Sydney, Greg Combet rose to the leadership of the trade union movement and went on to become a senior minister in the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments. Along the way he has been a key player in numerous national struggles defending workers' rights and making historic reforms.

The school on the small plateau: the history of the Garfield North State School no. 3849 / Ron Smith

The school on the small plateau tells of the history of the Garfield North State School which operated from 1914 to 1973 and now continues as a school camp. A brief general history of the area is initially given, followed by a history of the school told through those with a school connection - head teachers, sewing mistress, students, district inspector, committee members, tennis players and campers. Many snippets of the history of the district and its families is also included. Anyone interested in acquiring a copy of this book may do so by contacting the author perfectnumber@bigpond.com.au.

WANT MORE? SEE THE FULL LIST OF RECENT ADDITIONS:

The monthly 'Recent Additions' list is automatically sent to all those who receive this newsletter by email. If you receive the newsletter by post and would like to have the Recent Additions posted to you, please let us know by phone 9510 3393 or by email library@pmi.net.au and we will add you to the mailing list. Otherwise, you can view the full list on our website at http://www.pmi.net.au/library_recent_additions.htm



HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Cinema & Theatre Historical Society

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-12 noon & 1pm-3pm. Right next door to the PMI Library, 140 High Street, Prahran. *Please phone Royce 9589 3448 or Gerry 0432 434 169 to confirm opening times before you visit or for any other enquiries.*

Box Hill Cemetery

2-4pm, Sat 13 Sep - Tour - As part of the City of Whitehorse Heritage Festival, this tour, conducted by members of the Surrey Hills Historical Society, will visit the graves of some of the well and lesser-known identities who settled and developed the suburb of Surrey Hills. Learn about their lives and the contributions they made, many of which have enriched life in Surrey Hills and the wider community. Participants should note that some paths in the cemetery are quite uneven and it is recommended comfortable walking shoes be worn. Please bring along a drink, hat, coat and umbrella. Cost: \$12. *Please meet at Middleborough Road Gates (Mel Ref: 47 G10). Further information and bookings: 9262 6555 - phone bookings attract \$3.75 fee.*

Brighton Cemeterians

10AM, Fri 10 Oct - Tour - Seniors Week: Women of the Cemetery - Established in 1854 Brighton General Cemetery is the resting place of some of Melbourne's most significant pioneers. This walk will take people around the beautiful park like gardens and lawns to visit the graves of amazing women who in their chosen fields led extraordinary lives and were fore runners to Women's Liberation, included are Dame Marie Breen first female federal senator, Elizabeth Bleazby JP, Linda Phillips OBE, Poet, Lyrist, Composer and Music Critic. Brighton General Cemetery (tour will begin just inside the front gate), 261 North Road, Caulfield South. Seniors Week price \$8. *Further information and bookings: Lois 9558 4248 or info@brightoncemeterians.org.*

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

12pm, Sun 12 Oct - Anniversary Luncheon - Be entertained by a continuous show of photos recording the history of Koo Wee Rup, the Swamp and the Society. Koo Wee Rup Community Centre, Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup. Cost: \$25. *Further information and bookings: Audrey Mills 5997 1357 or Heather Arnold 0407 521 637 harnold@dcsi.net.au.*

Emerald Hill Heritage Centre

City of Port Phillip has opened the Emerald Hill Heritage Centre at 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne. It is in the Library building opposite South Melbourne Town Hall. The opening hours are: Monday 10-6 / Tuesday 2-6 / Wednesday 2-6 / Thursday 12-6 / Friday 10-6 / Saturday 10-2 / Sunday Closed. The nearest tram is Route 112 stop 128 on Clarendon Street. The Local History Room at St Kilda Library is now closed so all enquiries should be directed to the Heritage Centre. The Centre will give access to historic and digital records, an image collection, free access to a library edition of Ancestry. The Heritage team of Sandra Khazam, Anne Scambary and Kay Rowan will give you a warm welcome and assist you.

Public Record Office

1-2pm, Thu 25 Sep - information session - Heritage Research (Land and Buildings) - Let us provide you with some tips and tricks on researching land and building records from the Public Record Office Victoria collection. There are many different entry points into researching land and buildings at Public Record Office Victoria. How and where you start, depends largely on where the land and buildings are located and what we have in our collection relating to your area. Today we aim to get you started. Basic level of computer understanding required. A tour of the archives proceeds this information session.

1-2pm, Wed 22 Oct - information session - Reading 19th Century Handwriting - Are you baffled by the handwriting on 19th century documents? Is that a J or an F? An S or a D? Stop tearing your hair out in frustration; we're here to help. Come along to our information session and we'll show you how to interpret the handwriting of our forebears.

Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Sheil St, North Melbourne. Further information and bookings, visit <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar>. Ordinary information sessions are preceded by a tour of the archives which may be booked separately.

Stonnington History Centre

10am-11am, Wed 1 Oct - History Matters workshop - The University of Melbourne Archives. Learn more about the University of Melbourne Archives, one of Australia's largest non-government archival collections open for public research. Curator Katie Wood highlights material relating to the City of Stonnington. Northbrook House, behind Malvern Library, 1257 High Street, Malvern. *Further information and bookings: 8290 1360.*

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